

Applicant intends to claim the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/227099. The specification is amended to refer to the above application and requests that the claim for benefit be recognized.

Sequence ID References

The Examiner notes that several nucleotide sequences appear in the specification in figure 3 that are not properly identified. The sequences listed in Figure 2 already are disclosed in the Sequence Listing filed 7 March, 2003. The specification has been amended to show reference to the appropriate Sequence ID No. in the Brief Description of the drawings per the Examiner's recommendation.

Antecedent Basis for Claims 10-15 and 17

The Examiner has objected to claims 10-15 as having no or improper antecedent basis in the specification. The base claims do not identify any particular source of nucleic acid, and therefore encompass all such sources, obviating the need for references to specific organism sources. Therefore, claims 10-15 are cancelled, removing this basis of objection to as to these claims. Applicant is also canceling claim 17 in view of the Examiner's objection and rejection of this claim under § 112 first paragraph.

Amendment of Specification

1. The Examiner is requested to amend the specification to add the following at the top of page 2, line 1, preceding the section entitled Field of the Invention:

"The Applicant claims the benefit of its priority U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/227,099 filed August 22, 2000."

2. The Examiner is requested to amend the specification in the Brief Description of the Drawings on page 7, lines 13-15, of the specification as follows:

"**Figure 3.** Illustrates a pairwise sequence alignment with gaps in the sequences, where the bases of $Q_{i\text{left}}$ and $Q_{i\text{right}}$ ~~align exactly with the $H_{i\text{left}}$ and $H_{i\text{right}}$~~ from the Query/Hit pairwise alignment fragment, Sequence ID No. 1."

Amendment of Claims

Claims 10-15 and 17 have been canceled. Claims 5-7 and 16 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 5-9, 16, 18-33, and 39 remain in the case.